

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O P 271706Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4210

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T AMMAN 2027

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, UNRWA, XF

SUBJ: UNRWA FUNDING

1. PM RIFAI TOLD AMBASSADOR MARCH 27 THAT AT RECENT CAIRO ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING, BEFORE MEETING ADJOURNED AS RESULT OF FAISAL ASSASSINATION, HE GOT GENERAL AGREEMENT TO INCREASED ARAB FUNDING FOR UNRWA. RIFAI SAID THAT EVEN PLO QUDDUMI WITH WHOM HE SPOKE SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT OPPOSE ADDITIONAL ARAB FUNDING FOR UNRWA.

2. RIFAI SAID THAT HE USED UNSYG LETTER TO ARAB LEAGUE SYG RIAD ASKING FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$15-\$20 MILLION CONTRIBUTION FROM ARABS. WALDHEIM APPARENTLY WROTE THAT IF ARABS COULD FIND THAT SUM, HE THOUGHT HE LOCATE THE REST TO COVER CURRENT UNRWA DEBT. RIFAI SAYS THAT HE REGRETS MEETING BROKE UP BEFORE HE COULD REACH POINT ON AGENDA WHERE RESOLUTION WHICH HE WOULD PROPOSE TO ABOVE EFFECT COULD BE PASSED. HE SAID THAT HE FOUND NO RPT NO OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSAL. RESOLUTION WOULD REQUIRE RIAD TO GO AROUND ARAB WORLD FINDING THE FUNDS. AND WHILE FULL AMOUNT, SAID RIFAI, WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE AVAILABLE BEFORE EARLY MAY, IT

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WOULD REMOVE MAJOR POLITICAL IMPEDIMENT TO SUBSTANTIAL ARAB CON-

TRIBUTIONS AND PERMIT CONTINUED OPERATION OF UNRWA AT PRESENT LEVEL.
ARAB LEAGUE MEETING WILL BE RECONVENED IN 10 DAYS AND RIFAI SAYS
THAT JORDANIAN DELEGATE (PROBABLY MIN STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SADEQ ASH SHARI') WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO SEEK PASSAGE OF THE
PROPOSAL.
PICKERING

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NNN

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